



Florida House of Representatives

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“WELFARE FOR POLITICIANS” END IN SIGHT

TALLAHASSEE – The House Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development today approved House Joint Resolution (HJR) 81 by Representative Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) that would allow Florida voters to end public financing for statewide political campaigns, a system often called “welfare for politicians.”

“Public financing for political campaigns is an outdated model that has outlived its usefulness,” said Representative Hays. “Look at the last presidential election - President Obama proved that candidates can raise record amounts without taking a dime of public financing. There is simply no justification for politicians to continue using Floridians’ hard-earned tax dollars as part of their multi-million dollar campaigns.”

In 2006, more than \$11 million in taxpayer funding was used to finance the campaigns of candidates for Governor (\$7.42 million), Chief Financial Officer (\$1.94 million), Attorney General (\$1.4 million) and Commissioner of Agriculture (\$393,459).

Since 1998, Florida’s taxpayers have spent more than \$20 million to finance the campaigns of candidates for Governor, Attorney General, Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, Commissioner of Agriculture, Secretary of State, Comptroller, and Education Commissioner.

HJR 81 will next be heard on the House Floor.

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